

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Walsh Creek-Rock Creek Confluence Restoration Project
Cedar River Municipal Watershed, King County, WA**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funding to the City of Seattle, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) for an Alternate Project to restore approximately 600 lineal feet of riparian and salmonid stream habitat within the confluence of Walsh and Rock creeks, and for the deconstruction of 7,040 feet of the #40 Road levee immediately adjacent to Rock Creek to reduce the potential for future landslides from the levee. The project is located in the Cedar River Municipal Watershed (CRMW), which is owned and managed by SPU, in King County, Washington (see Attachment A, Project Vicinity Map). The project is located in the NW1/4 of Section 16, Township 22N, Range 7E (47° 24'0"N/121°50'0"N or 47.39861, -121.93797).

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 1500 through 1508) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to take into consideration the environmental consequences of proposed federally funded projects. Numerous environmental studies have been prepared that are related to the proposed project, with extensive public participation and outreach including public meetings and numerous public notices. A Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for federally listed species in the CRMW and other technical studies were prepared.

NEPA encourages federal agencies to reduce duplication and paperwork by adopting other federal agencies' NEPA documentation or by incorporating available information by reference. In the case of the CRMW, a joint NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) EIS was prepared in 1998-1999 for the HCP and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the NEPA EA in 2000. FEMA considered whether to adopt the NEPA EA for the proposed project, which was designed to be in conformance with, and to further the objectives of, the HCP and the NEPA EA/SEPA EIS. However, Presidential Executive Orders relating to Environmental Justice, Floodplains, and Wetlands had not been addressed and documentation of FEMA's compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), including tribal consultation, also needed to be added. Therefore, in compliance with NEPA and the CEQ and FEMA implementing regulations, Presidential Executive Orders, and the NHPA, FEMA has prepared this EA to address the additional subject areas not covered by the EA for the HCP, and to document compliance with the procedural requirements of those additional regulations.

In addition, SPU prepared and circulated for public review, a detailed project-specific SEPA Checklist dated February 14, 2011 for the Proposed Action that is the subject of this EA. FEMA's Walsh Creek-Rock Creek Confluence Restoration Project EA incorporates by reference the previous environmental documentation prepared for the CRMW HCP and the proposed Walsh Creek-Rock Creek Confluence Restoration Project. Seattle Public Utilities provided substantial public participation and outreach, including public meetings and working groups, during development of the HCP and NEPA EA/SEPA EIS. Taking into consideration the amount of public participation already provided for this project, and the focused nature of the EA, FEMA has determined an adequate public comment period for the EA to be 15 days after the publication of the public notice.

The Draft EA is available for review online at the FEMA environmental website at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments> under Region X. If no significant issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA will finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and fund the project. Unless substantive comments are received, FEMA will not publish another notice for this project. However, should a FONSI be issued, it will be available for public viewing at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments> under Region X.

Written comments on the Draft EA should be received no later than 5 pm on June 25, 2011 to Susan King, FEMA Region 10, 130 228th Street SW, Bothell Washington 98021-9796 or by e-mail to susan.king@dhs.gov.